



**Parish of Downpatrick**

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**PARISH PRIEST: Fr Eugene O'Neill**

**Contacts:**

**Parish Office:** 028 44612084

**Address:** 54 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick, BT30 6DN

**Office hours 10.00am – 2.00pm Monday-Thursday,**

**Closes 1pm on Friday.**

**Parish Secretary: Mary Cullen Tel: 02844612084**

You can contact us by telephone or email. Since Downpatrick is a very busy Parish Office; we can't always answer the phone immediately. Please leave a message with your telephone number and we will call you back.

**Parish email:** [downpatrick@downandconnor.org](mailto:downpatrick@downandconnor.org)

**Website:** [www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com](http://www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com)



**Parish Bulletin:** The Parish Bulletin will be published as normal over the Christmas Period -with a be a bulletin 28 December. Insertions for these bulletins should reach the Parish Office no later than 12 noon on the Tuesday before publication.

**Downpatrick Parish Mass Schedule:**

**Weekend Masses**

**Vigils**

St. Patrick's 5pm

St Brigid's 6.30pm

**Sunday**

St Patrick's 10.30am

St. Malachy's – First Sunday of Each Month at 9am

**PLEASE NOTE: NO EVENING MASS ON MONDAY 22 DECEMBER**



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve**

**St. Patrick's**

5pm Christmas Mass (Vigil)

St. Patrick's 9pm 'Midnight Mass' with Parish Choir

**(Confessions available Christmas Eve, immediately after MORNING Mass in St Patrick's)**

**St. Brigid's, Christmas Vigil Mass**

6.30pm (Vigil)

**Christmas Day**

**St. Patrick's**

10.30am

**St. Malachy's**

11am

**St. Colmcille's**

11am

**No Mass in the Parish on Boxing Day**



**Your Prayers are Requested for:**

**Recently Deceased:** Martin Fitzsimons, Anne McMullan, Maureen McCrissican (Newcastle)

**Month's Mind** Marina Annals, John McNally,

**Anniv:** Eileen Doherty, Sarah Jane Digney, Rosie Mulholland, Emmett Perry, Terence Walsh, James McIlhone,

Aidan Hennedy, Stratton & Rooney Families, Joe Williams, Maurice Hayes, May Leonard, Florence Carson,

Mary McCrissican, Harry & Donagh Robinson, Brian Galbraith, William 'Doc' Morrison, Alan Gordon,

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Saturday 20 December St Patrick's 5pm**

**Anniv:** Jean Smyth, Hugh Kearney, Rooney & Stratton Family, Michael McCartan, Ethna Kennedy, Winnie & Charles Reid

**Saturday 20 December, St Brigid's, 6.30pm**

**Anniv:** Terry Ritchie, Rosie Mulholland, Terence Walsh, Sarah-Jane Digney,

**Sunday 21 December St Patrick's 10.30am**

**Month's Mind:** Marina Annals, John McNally,

**Anniv:** John Hanna, Arthur Mooney

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:**

**14 December Collection**

**Offertory: £3613**

To donate directly via Bank Transfer the parish bank details are: **Account Name: Parish of Downpatrick, Account Number: 80146471, Sort Code: 95-06-79** (please add an identifying name to your transaction) or you can contact the Parish Office for a Standing Order Form.

**There is now a card machine at the main door to St Patrick's, donations can be made using the secure card machine. Follow the instructions on the machine to donate.**

**Thank you for your continued support**

**Personal Message from Fr. Eugene.**

My dear friends, as we approach the celebration of our Lord's birth, I want to wish you and your families a joyful, happy and peace-filled Christmas.

There is something magical about Christmas and yet for many people it's a poignant and difficult time of year, so we hold in our hearts those who experience this as a challenging or painful time.

On a personal note, on this my first Christmas in the parish, I want to sincerely thank you for your kindness and warm welcome since I arrived here. My arrival in the parish coincided with my father's sudden illness and death - and I was deeply moved and consoled by the outpouring of support that I received from so many kind parishioners. Like many recently bereaved families, this will be a sad time for my sisters and myself yet I am so thankful to you all for your support and encouragement in these difficult times.

This is a wonderful parish with a deep history of faith and dedication, and I feel blessed to be here. There are so many committed, faithful people here and it makes my work both a joy and a pleasure. Sadly, due to declining numbers of priests, as you know we recently implemented some changes to reflect the realities in which we live - but as always, the parishioners were generous, supportive and accepting and I am deeply grateful.

In that regard, I would also like to extend our best wishes and prayerful gratitude to Canon Murray, Fr. Toland and Fr. Henry for their long years of service in their parish. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all God's blessings for a happy and healthy retirement.

Once again, my dear friends, I wish you, your families and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and New Year, filled with joy, health and peace.

*Fr Eugene O'Neill*